

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Minutes

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, February 25, 2014
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) was called to order by Chair, Kathleen Swanson, at 7:15 pm, February 25, 2014.
 - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present, Kathleen Swanson, Chair, Vice-Chair, Ron Cervasio, and member, Shelley Pezza, legal counsel, Mr. Greg Piccirilli, Superintendent, Dr. Caroline Caswell, and secretary, Helena McCullough.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.
 - c. *Election of Officers – Vice-Chair* – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the election of Shelley Pezza as Vice Chair. Discussion – Mr. Cervasio informed the FSC that his obligations at the Regional Committee might interfere with the Vice-Chair position of the FSC, so he would bow out as Vice-Chair. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1.
Vote as follows:
Mrs. Swanson – yes
Ms. Pezza – abstain
Mr. Cervasio – yes
2. **Public Comment** – there was no Public Comment received.
3. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC vote to go into **Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers’ Association**. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation of the ESP and the FTA was discussed. No votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to reconvene Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to “Seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson, Chair, stated that the item #8a & b would be discussed at this point on the Agenda.
4. **Building Use Requests** – there were no requests.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to approve the Open and Executive “Sealed” Minutes for January 28, 2014. Discussion. On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, amended that the Open Minutes of January 28, 2014 reflect the following on item # 8b. Legal counsel would review that the Charter required the FSC to submit more than Quarterly Reports. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. The main motion to accept the submitted minutes was approved with this correction on #8b. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
6. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant dated 2/10/2014 for \$127,226.21. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant dated 2/12/2014 for \$13,325.39. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant dated 2/18/2014 for \$13,302.28. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
 - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Mike Petrarca supplied the FSC with a Year to Date expenditure report for 2014. Discussion followed.
7. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
 - a. *2013-2014 Budget* – no discussion.
 - b. *Facilities Update*
 - 1) Well Flow Test – no results of a test were supplied. Discussion.
 - 2) Roof Snow Removal – The FSC wanted to know if there was an engineered snow removal plan in place. This will be discussed through the building committee. At the end of the Odeh report after the roof collapse, there is an engineer’s recommendation. Ice damns will also be addressed.
 - c. *Capital Projects* – standing item. The well will come off the plan for now.
 - d. *Foster / Gloucester Regionalization* – Mrs. Swanson informed the public of an upcoming informational meeting about regionalization and to please watch for the date.
8. **New Business (for discussion/action)** – these items were moved up on the agenda for discussion after the Executive Session.
 - a. *2014-2015 Budget*
 - 1) Public Hearing – Mike Petrarca gave a quick synopsis of the 2015 budget. In the proposed 2015 budget, there are staffing reductions, salaries will increase for non-certified staff per contract, benefits may have a 10% increase per the Town information but that maybe more, legal services are reduced saving approximately \$25,000, three thousand dollars is allotted for asphalt repairs to the playground, eight thousand is allotted toward the file server upgrade and a laptop cart. The total increase for the 2015 budget equals \$125,000 or 4%. Discussion followed.
 - 2) Budget Approval – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the 2014-2015 Budget as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- b. *Personnel – Non-Renewal Notification* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation for non-renewals as presented. Discussion followed. The Superintendent gave a clarification of the non-renewals – a reduction in Music, Art, Physical Education and Library, a Kindergarten Teacher, First Grade Teacher, Math Specialist, and Reading Specialist. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

At this point the FSC resumed with the listing of the Agenda.

9. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* – there were no Communications.
- b. *Principal’s Report* – Kristen Danusis, Principal of Capt. Paine School, informed the FSC and public of an informational meeting Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 6:30pm at the Ponaganset Middle school about the Common Core Standards and how it will affect parents and children and the long range goals. At the March meeting of the FSC she will be presenting NECAP scores.
- c. *Superintendent’s Report* – Dr. Caswell did not have a report.

10. Future Agenda Items

- a. Facilities Update – concerning outside issues
- b. Facilities – charges from the Town
- c. NECAP - presentation

- 11. Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC adjourned at 9:20 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee